

Colossians 4:5-9 **Faithful Ministers**

1. Speak the mystery, as we ought • Colossians 4:4 (Review)

- a. Open doors are opportunities to speak the gospel of the grace of God and have some individuals listen. (1 Cor 16:9)
- b. We are all ministers of reconciliation, preach the gospel. (2 Cor 5:18, 2 Tim 1:6-9)
- c. Make known the mystery, proclaim it boldly - as we **ought**. It is our reasonable service. (Eph 3:8-9, Rom 12:1-2)
- d. Manifest: make it clear, God has. (Rom 3:21, Col 1:26, Rom 16:25-26)

2. Walk in wisdom • Colossians 4:5

- a. The manifold wisdom of God (in a mystery!) (Col 1:9-10, Col 3:16, Eph 3:10, 1 Cor 2:7)
- b. So walk ye in Him (as we ought) (Col 2:7, 1 Thess 4:1)
- c. The wise know the will of God. You cannot walk in wisdom without understanding. (Eph 5:17)
- d. Walk... towards them that are without... Circumspectly, redeeming the time (Eph 5:15-16)
- e. Not as other Gentiles walk in vanity and ignorance. (Eph 5:7-10, Eph 4:17-18)
- f. The days are evil - we live in a present evil world. This is not the time of Israel's kingdom on earth. (Gal 1:4, 2 Cor 4:4)
- g. These are the days of the longsuffering of God as he dispenses grace. (1 Tim 1:16, 2 Peter 3:14-15)
- h. Have you heard of the dispensation of the grace of God? (Eph 3:2)

3. Speech seasoned with grace • Colossians 4:6

- a. What is your message? This is about doctrinal content.
- b. The gospel of the grace of God, the mystery of Christ. The whole epistle has been teaching us about it, and showing us application of it. We're being firmly exhorted to apply it and make it known with our time. (Eph 5:18-19)
- c. The mystery is the answer. The preaching of the cross is the power of God. (1 Cor 1:18, Col 2:3)

4. The faithful • Colossians 4:7-9

- a. Tychicus - 5 times. Of Asia. Faithful minister, fellow servant, beloved brother, comforts the saints. (Acts 20:4, Eph 6:21, 2 Tim 4:12, Titus 3:12)
- b. Knowing estate and comfort, no matter our circumstances God's grace and our sure salvation is our hope, comfort, strength. (Rom 5:)
- c. Onesimus - 2 times. The servant in Philemon. (Phile 1:10)
- d. Faithful and beloved brothers (and sisters) is the goal of ministry (2 Tim 2:1-3)